

Why is family involvement important?

Parents are the experts in caring for their own children and are valued partners on the Early Intervention team. Families work with EI staff to help their children do their best.

Who pays for Early Intervention services?

There is no cost to families for EI services. All families are served regardless of income or health insurance coverage.

How do I choose a provider?

Early Intervention services are provided in a number of locations across Rhode Island.

You may want to consider choosing an Early Intervention provider:

- ◆ Who is located near your home or bus line.
- ◆ Who offers night or weekend appointments.
- ◆ Who speaks your language.

Choose the site that is best for you.

What should I do next?

- ◆ Call one of the agencies on the back of this brochure if you think your child may benefit from Early Intervention services.
- ◆ Talk to your doctor if you have questions about your child's development.

If you would like to learn more about Early Intervention or other family health programs, call the Family Health Information Line at 1-800-942-7434. Our staff speaks English and Spanish. We're ready to help.

Rhode Island Early Intervention Provider Sites

Children's Friend and Service
Providence and Central Falls
729-0008

Family Resources Community Action
Woonsocket
766-0900

Meeting Street
East Providence and Providence
438-9500

Trudeau Memorial Center
Warwick and Narragansett
823-1731 or 783-6853

Family Service
Providence
331-1350

Hasbro Children's Hospital
Providence
444-3201

James L. Maher Center
Newport
848-2660

Early Intervention



early intervention

supporting families and child development



MAKE HEALTH PART OF YOUR FAMILY
RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

What is Early Intervention?

Early Intervention (EI) serves children with developmental delays and their families. The program provides:

- ◆ Complete testing of your child's development.
- ◆ In-home support, if you have concerns about your child's growth and development.
- ◆ Links to resources in the community and services to help your child.

"The Early Intervention Program helps children reach their full potential."

-Rhode Island Pediatrician

What are developmental delays?

Children grow and learn at different rates. Most kids develop a basic set of skills by a certain age. These skills include sitting, crawling, walking and talking, for example.

When a child does not develop skills at the expected age, this is called a developmental delay. Children who have developmental delays may have special challenges or conditions that need attention. Early Intervention supports children and their families as they face these challenges.



How can I tell if my child has a developmental delay?

Parents are often the first to notice a developmental delay. Use the following guide to check if your child's skills are developing as expected.

If you have questions about your child's development, talk to your doctor. Even if you are not sure your child has a developmental delay, you should talk to your doctor about your concerns.

By 3 months:

- ◆ Push up on arms and hold head up
- ◆ Follow a moving toy with eyes

By 6 months:

- ◆ Sit with little support
- ◆ Babble when alone
- ◆ Reach for an object

By 9 months:

- ◆ Sit without support
- ◆ Crawl on hands and knees
- ◆ Imitate sounds, such as bye-bye

By 12 months:

- ◆ Pull up to a standing position
- ◆ Pick up foods and try to feed self

By 18 months:

- ◆ Walk well and begin to run
- ◆ Name some objects

By 24 months:

- ◆ Put 2 or 3 words together in a sentence
- ◆ Walk up and down stairs
- ◆ Stack blocks and other objects

By 36 months:

- ◆ Imitate other children and adults
- ◆ Speak and be understood by others
- ◆ Play with others and share toys

"I felt relieved that someone else saw what I saw in my child."

-Parent of a child who went to Early Intervention

Who is eligible for EI?

Early Intervention is for families with children younger than three years old who have a developmental delay or have a medical condition that may affect their growth or development.

Children older than three years of age who have developmental delays receive services through their local school system.

What does EI offer my child and family?

Early Intervention offers services that meet the needs of your child and family. First, a team of professionals will work with you to test your child's development. Second, Early Intervention staff will work to develop a plan for your family. The plan may include services such as physical therapy, vision services, home visits, counseling, medical services, or other services that your child and family may need.

